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MEMORANDUM

To: Karen Sherman, Town Planner
Town of Holliston

From: Christopher Menge, INCE

Date: February 17, 2021

Subject: Peer review of noise study for proposed warehouse at 555 Hopping Brook Road, Holliston

Reference: HMMH Project Number 312210

Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc. (HMMH) has completed our peer review of the noise analysis performed for the proposed warehouse facility at 555 Hopping Brook Road in Holliston, MA.

We reviewed the initial report by Cavanaugh Tocci "Proposed Warehouse Sound Analysis" dated January 25, 2021. We have also reviewed a memorandum prepared by Cavanaugh Tocci on February 5 in response to a comment we offered after an initial review requesting noise predictions at property line positions as well as at the nearest homes themselves.

We have found the noise study to be comprehensively and conservatively prepared, addressing all pertinent state and local noise regulations and bylaw provisions. Transient noise sources such as truck traffic that is not subject to the noise regulations were also addressed. The noise model developed and the modeling approach were sufficiently detailed, and appear to account for all significant noise sources and sound propagation paths to all the nearest homes and property lines.

The proposed project includes a substantial earth berm topped by a noise wall that will serve to block the lines of sight and reduce noise from the warehouse noise sources to even the second floors of the nearest homes. The projected noise levels from the continuous noise sources such as rooftop air handling equipment, warehouse interior equipment emanating from open loading doors, and emergency generators are expected to be up to 5 decibels (dBA) above a quiet nighttime background (L_{90}) sound level of 30 dBA. This level of 35 dBA is 5 decibels below the Holliston Bylaw and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection limits of 40 dBA. This is a reasonable design margin for the continuous noise sources. Levels at about half the homes are expected to be 31 dBA or lower. The continuous sound from the facility likely will be audible at times during the quietest periods of the night and day, but will not be intrusive.

Transient sounds will somewhat louder and more audible when they occur, but none are expected to exceed about 50 dBA at the nearest homes. High idle trucks and backup alarm events are expected to be below 40 dBA, and the highest levels from accelerating trucks are expected to exceed 45 dBA at only one location. For comparison, existing average sound levels in the community vary of course, but on fairly quiet days, hourly average sound levels (L_{eq}) typically range between 35 and 45 dBA. Therefore, it would be fair to say that the sounds from the facility will not be notably louder than the common sounds in the community today.